

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 0755

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT AND COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM

1. I SAW UK PERM REP SIR DONALD MAITLAND WHO IS CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY PERMREP COMMITTEE, JANUARY 25 FOR REVIEW OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BRUSSELS AND KEY ELEMENTS OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WORK PROGRAM. SIR DONALD TELLS ME THAT HE HAS SEEN A FAIR NUMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSIONERS SINCE YESTERDAY AND THAT THEY ARE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR BELIEF THAT THE VISIT WENT WELL AND PROMISES MUCH FOR IMPROVED US/EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN THE FUTURE. I ASSURED HIM MY OWN IMPRESSION WAS EXTREMELY POSITIVE.
2. SIR DONALD OBSERVED THAT IN HIS OPINION IMPORTANT NEW BEGINNINGS WERE BEING MADE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AS WELL AS IN WASHINGTON. APART FROM CONTINUING COMMUNITY CONCERNS WITH DIFFICULT FISHING ISSUES, HE SAID JANUARY 18 COUNCIL HAD INITIATED IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS OF THREE MAJOR PROBLEMS.
3. FIRST, CIEC AND MORE BROADLY NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY WHICH IN HIS LANGUAGE WOULD RESULT, IF ALL WENT WELL, IN CONSTRUCTION OF NUMBER OF FOXHOLES WHICH
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DEVELOPED COUNTRIES COULD HOLD FOR CONSIDERABLE TIME PERIOD BEFORE AND AFTER CIEC MINISTERIAL. COUNCIL HAD AGREED DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY POLICY SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN CONJUNCTION WITH CLOSEST CONSULTATION WITH US, JAPAN AND OTHER G-8 PARTNERS. THAT PROCESS WAS WELL LAUNCHED WITH VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND COOPER'S AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE COMMUNITY DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON IN EARLY FEBRUARY.

4. SECOND, JAPAN. COMMUNITY CONCERN OVER JAPANESE TRADING PRACTICES WAS, AS WE KNOW, GREAT AND SUCCEEDING COUNCILS WOULD REVIEW PROGRESS WITH JAPANESE. I COMMENTED DRAWING ON VICE PRESIDENT'S OBSERVATIONS ON MULTILATERAL NATURE OF WORLD TRADING AND FINANCIAL SYSTEM AND URGED COMMUNITY TO SEEK SOLUTION COMPATIBLE WITH DEVELOPMENT THAT SYSTEM RATHER THAN BILATERAL ANSWERS WHICH COULD ONLY STRENGTHEN PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES ELSEWHERE.

5. THIRD, PORTUGAL DISCUSSION IS NOW LAUNCHED IN WHICH MINISTERS HAVE BEGUN TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MIGHT MEET SOARES' POLITICAL DESIRES AND SAFEGUARD DEMOCRATIC REGIME IN PORTUGAL WHILE AVOIDING ALL OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS INHERENT IN FULL MEMBERSHIP. SIR DONALD DID NOT PREDICT OUTCOME BUT REMARKED THAT TYPE OF DISCUSSION NOW UNDERWAY WAS WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE BEFORE COUNCIL ENDORSED GREEK APPLICATION. AT LONG LAST, MINISTERS ARE EXAMINING IN DEPTH THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF ADMISSION TO COMMUNITY OF GREECE, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN.

6. SIR DONALD ALSO COMMENTED THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH NEW COMMISSION WHICH WAS NOT SIMPLY FOLLOWING ON WHERE OLD COMMISSION HAD LEFT OFF BUT WAS SHOWING SIGNS OF RETHINKING MANY OF THE BASIC ISSUES. HE THOUGHT THAT THIS NEW FERMENT IN COUNCIL, COREPER, AND COMMISSION COULD LEAD TO USEFUL RESULTS LATER THIS YEAR AND ASSURED ME THAT ALL CONCERNED INTENDED TO DEVELOP THESE NEW POLICIES IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH US. VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT HAS SERVED TO STRENGTHEN
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